TRENDS

12/5/83
A3275-2

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 1, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 26 totaled an estimated 13.4 billion ton-miles, 7.8 percent above the corresponding period a year ago. Both weeks included the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 47 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 749.5 billion ton-miles, 2.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 26 totaled 300,584 cars, 11.5 percent over 1982, but 24.0 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 23.1 percent in the East, 12.6 percent in the South and 4.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were up, led by motor vehicles and equipment up 4,551 cars, or 47.5 percent; metal and products up 2,454 cars, or 48.3 percent; and coal up 5,567 cars, or 7.1 percent. All of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended November 19 totaled 49,684 cars, up 23.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 89,484 trailers and/or containers, 26.8 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 46 weeks of the year was 2,081,086 cars, 21.8 percent higher than last year, and 3,607,395 trailers and/or containers, up 19.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/26/83:

	Loadings in Week ended November 26, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,420	I	4,196	21.8	D	7,832	25.1
Other farm products	3,471	D	1,967	36.2	D	500	12.6
Metallic ores	13,040	I	2,376	22.3	D	3,543	21.4
Coal	83,966	I	5,567	7.1	D	29,922	26.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,428	I	1,330	21.8	D	3,545	32.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,309	I	975	13.3	D	2,885	25.8
Grain mill products	8,555	D	955	10.0	D	1,964	18.7
Food and kindred products	8,761	D	1,575	15.2	D	2,689	23.5
Primary forest products	10,550	I	12	0.1	D	4,589	30.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,169	I	275	5.6	D	1,999	27.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,593	D	665	4.7	D	1,236	8.3
Chemicals and allied products	20,015	I	3,285	19.6	D	3,944	16.5
Petroleum products	3,597	D	63	1.7	D	1,268	26.1
Stone, clay and glass products	8,535	I	669	8.5	D	1,947	18.6
Coke	4,486	I	1,164	35.0	D	933	17.2
Metals and products	7,530	I	2,454	48.3	D	1,372	15.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,129	I	4,551	47.5	D	6,039	29.9
Waste and scrap materials	6,630	I	1,530	30.0	D	2,991	31.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,156	I	1,443	25.3	D	2,669	27.2
All other carloads	42,059	I	6,839	19.4	D	13,176	23.9
LCL traffic	185	D	517	73.6	D	85	31.5
Total Cars Loaded	300,584	I	30,924	11.5	D	95,128	24.0

Corresponding week of 1982 269,660

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (47 weeks)	17,092,050	16,985,979	I 0.6

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

46 weeks ended November 19	Revised 736.0	715.6	I	2.9
Week ended November 26	13.4	12.5	I	7.8
47 weeks cumulative	749.5	728.0	I	2.9

AARt-120183